

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT KIGALI 362 ACTION SECSTATE 19 JUNE.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS RW

SUBJ: GOR BEGINS TRIAL ANCIENT REGIME FIGURES

REF: A) KIGALI A-24; B) KIGALI A-104 OF 10/19/73

1. GOR CTTE. FOR PEACE/UNITY APPEALED JUNE 6 FOR
CONTINUED NATIONAL CALM AND REQUESTED RESPONSIBLE
SERVICES "DETECT AND DISCOURAGE DISTURBERS OF
TRANQUILITY". THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED JUNE 7 BY
GOR APPROVAL DECREE CONFIRMING AUGUST 27, 1973
DECISION CTTE. PEACE/UNITY TO CREATE COURT MARTIAL
(WITHOU APPEAL) TO HANDLE STATE SECURITY CASES.
TRIAL BEGAN JUNE 12 IN RUHENGARI WHERE MOST MEMBERS
KAYIBANDA GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF "PLOT AGAINST STATE
JULY 4-5 1973" ARE IN PRISON OR UNDER HOUSE ARREST.
COURT PRESIDENT IS MAJOR BONAVENTURE NTIBITURA;
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TWO ASSESSORS ARE SECURITY CHIEF LIZINDE AND

LIEUTENANT NSHIMABAREZI; PROSECUTOR IS ATTGEN JOSEPH KAVARUGANDA.

2. EMB HAS LEARNED PRESIDENT KAYIBANDA STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST RUHENERI AND APPARENTLY NOT AMONG THOSE BEING TRIED. SOME IMPLICATED HAVE REPORTEDLY DIED IN PRISON OF DISEASE SINCE JULY 1973. BUT OTHERS SUCH AS FORMER SECSTATE CIVIL SERVICE CAPT BIZIMANA CONSIDERED A CHIEF PLOTTER, RECENTLY SEEN BY ICRC REP AND REPORTED IN GOOD MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

3. COMMENT: SINCE AUGUST 1973 DECISION CTTE. PEACE/ UNITY CREATE COURT MARTIAL, BEGINNING OF TRIAL HAS BEEN IMMINENTLY EXPECTED. DELAY APPARENTLY DUE LENGTHY INVESTIGATION JULY 5PLOT RESULTING IN CONTINUING ARRESTS CERTAIN HIGHLY PLACED CIVIL AND MILITARY FIGURES (REF A AND B) AND TO PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S DEMAND FOR PROPER LEGAL PROCEDURES. PRESIDENT SUPREME COURT WHO SWORE IN COURT MARTIAL MEMBERS TOLD EMB RECENTLY THAT PRESIDENT HAD DEMANDED RIGOROUS ATTENTION TO LAWS AND CAREFUL APPLICATION JUDICIAL PROCEDURES IN PREPARING THIS AND OTHER HIGH CRIMINAL CASES.
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